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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent Application of:

MORINI et al.

Serial No.: 09/975,946

Filed: October 15, 2001

Date: February 10, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2819

Examiner: Daniel D. CHANG

For: DIGITAL LEVEL SHIFTER WITH REDUCED POWER DISSIPATION AND FALSE
TRANSMISSION

Asst. Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Responsive to the Election of Species Requirement mailed October 11, 2002, Applicants hereby elect the species illustrated in Fig. 6. The claims readable on the elected species include claims 1-11, and 13-21, of which claims 1, 2, and 4 are deemed to be generic.

The foregoing election is made without traverse.

Applicants respectfully take exception, however, to the Examiner's statement that there are currently no generic claims. In simplified terms, claim 1 calls for a level shifting circuit and a feedback circuit to shut off the level shifting circuit after a level shifting operation has taken place. Fig. 3 clearly illustrates a feedback circuit, and the circuitry of Fig. 6 is clearly described as incorporating a feedback function (see page 14, lines 1-8). Perhaps, therefore the Examiner has concluded that there are no generic claims because Fig. 4 does not show a feedback circuit. In this connection , the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to page 10, lines 23 and 24, where it is stated that:

Fig. 5 shows one way in which ACK signals [i.e., feedback], can be provided between P1, P3, N1, and N3 in Fig. 4 to avoid a standoff.

It is accordingly submitted that, when the specification is properly interpreted, the disclosed species are:

Species One: Illustrated in Fig.3

Species Two: Illustrated in Figs. 4 *and* 5.

Species Three: Illustrated in Fig.6

Each of the species includes a level shifting circuit and a feedback circuit as called for in claims 1, 2, and 4. These claims are therefore generic.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 10, 2003:

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Name of applicant, assignee or
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February 10, 2003
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Respectfully submitted,

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